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A heart for poetry

AMIRUDIN Shari's (pic) debating and poetry recitation skills, honed in school, came in useful when he was campaigning during the general election.

The 28-year-old Batu Cave assemblyman's fiery speeches belie his quiet demeanour.

Tell us about your alma mater.

I studied at SK Seri Al-Ulum, Kampung Parit Marjunit, SMK Benut, Johor, and Universiti Putra Malaysia. I graduated with a Bachelor's in Human Development from UPM.

How were you as a student – naughty, quiet or goody-two-shoes?

I would say that I was a very active student.

Describe your co-curricular experiences in school.

I was active in football and hockey. I was also in the Bahasa Malaysia and Debating and Poetry societies, and the

Guidance and Counselling, and Recreation associations.

Share your most cherished school memories.

The highlight of my school life was being the national champion at the 1996 Anti-Dadah Poetry Competition.

Who were your favourite teachers, and why?

My favourite teacher was Cikgu Rosli Bakir, who trained me for *sajak* recitations. I spent a lot of time with him and the interaction made me a more mature person.

Was there something in your student life that sparked your interest in politics?

What really got me involved was a course I attended at Biro Tatanegara. One would think that I would join Umno or Barisan because of that, but it had the opposite effect.

What is your view of the



current education system?

We need reformation in the implementation of policies.

What changes would you like to see in our education system?

Students should be given greater freedom to explore knowledge without the limitations that exist now.

There should be more transparency in the dissemination of knowledge and it should not be organised according to what the government wants.

What is the one thing that you would have liked to do as a student but never did?

Nothing. – **SIMRIT KAUR**